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CURRENT TRENDS IN WHOLESALE TRADE, MARCH, 1936

Wholesale trade in Canada in March, 1936, shows a gain of 4.9 per cent in value over the amount recorded in the same month last year according to figures secured from approximately 200 regular wholesale houses operating in nine different lines of trade. Totals for the first three months of 1936 show a gain of 4.5 per cent in value of business over that of the first quarter in 1935.

Percentage increases for the wholesale trade as a whole are recorded in March, 1936, for all economic divisions of the country. In British Columbia the increase was 9.4 per cent; in the Prairie Provinces, 6.4 per cent; in Quebec, 6.0 per cent; in the Maritime Provinces, 2.7 per cent, and, in Ontario, 1.6 per cent.

Increases are also recorded for each of the individual lines of business for which figures are shown. Sales of automotive equipment dealers registered an increase in value of 8.5 per cent over March, 1935; the footwear group shows an increase of 7.9 per cent; fruits and vegetables, 6.5 per cent; hardware, 6.3 per cent, and clothing, 6.3 per cent. Minor percentage increases were recorded for each of the other groups.

Value of inventory as on March 31, 1936, was 4.7 per cent higher than on the corresponding date last year. Percentage changes in inventory value ranged from an increase of 15.5 per cent in the case of the tobacco and confectionery group to a minor decrease of .9 per cent in the clothing group.

Percentage Changes in Wholesale Trade  
Pourcentage des changements dans commerce au gros

	Percentage change, 1936 compared with 1935 Pourcentage du changement, 1936 compare à 1935			
	Sales -- Ventes			Inventory Inventaire
	(1) February 1936 Février 1935	(2) March 1936 Mars 1935	First Quarter 1936 Premier trimestre 1935	March 1936 Mars 1935
Automotive Equipment--				
Equipment automobileur .....	- 3.2	+ 8.5	+ 6.4	+ 1.4
Maritimes and Quebec .....	- 1.3	+ 7.7	+ 11.2	
Ontario .....	- 0.9	- 0.4	+ 0.8	
Western Provinces--de l'Ouest	- 5.9	+ 8.9	+ 9.7	
Drugs -- drogues .....	+ 4.2	+ 4.1	+ 4.5	+ 3.1
Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario	+ 5.1	+ 3.3	+ 4.3	
Western Provinces--de l'Ouest	+ 1.6	+ 6.1	+ 5.1	
Clothing -- Vetement .....	+ 1.4	+ 6.3	+ 6.8	- 0.9
Quebec .....	+ 0.7	+ 6.3	+ 9.4	
Ontario and Western Provinces -- de l'Ouest .....	+ 2.1	+ 6.4	+ 4.1	
Footwear -- Chaussures .....	+ 4.5	+ 7.9	+ 3.2	+ 20.7
Quebec .....	+ 9.6	+ 16.8	+ 15.0	
Ontario .....	- 2.5	- 8.3	- 17.7	
Dry Goods -- Marchandises seches	- 0.5	+ 6.0	+ 1.8	+ 1.9
Maritimes and Quebec .....	+ 1.3	+ 12.1	+ 7.6	
Ontario .....	- 3.5	- 3.9	- 4.4	
Western Provinces--de l'Ouest	+ 1.2	+ 10.2	+ 1.5	
Fruits and Vegetables--Fruits et legumes .....	- 5.8	+ 6.5	+ 1.8	+ 14.0
Maritimes and Quebec .....	- 10.3	+ 10.9	+ 1.0	
Ontario .....	+ 0.1	+ 7.7	+ 3.5	
Western Provinces--de l'Ouest	- 8.4	+ 1.5	- 0.3	
Groceries-- Epiceries .....	+ 7.5	+ 3.7	+ 5.4	+ 11.6
Maritimes .....	+ 13.2	+ 2.0	+ 7.2	
Quebec .....	+ 4.0	- 4.1	+ 0.4	
Ontario .....	+ 2.4	+ 1.4	- 0.1	
Prairies .....	+ 5.8	+ 8.9	+ 8.1	
British Columbia .....	+ 23.7	+ 6.8	+ 16.1	
Hardware -- Quincaillerie .....	+ 3.2	+ 6.3	+ 5.7	- 0.5
Maritimes .....	- 3.0	+ 1.9	- 3.2	
Quebec .....	+ 6.5	+ 8.8	+ 12.8	
Ontario .....	+ 5.9	+ 2.7	+ 3.1	
Western Provinces--de l'Ouest	+ 2.0	+ 7.2	+ 5.8	
Tobacco and Confectionery --				
Tabacs et confiseries .....	+ 7.0	+ 4.0	+ 4.6	+ 15.5
Quebec .....	+ 13.7	+ 7.2	+ 7.4	
Ontario .....	+ 6.8	+ 0.8	+ 3.9	
Western Provinces -- de l'Ouest	- 1.2	+ 4.0	+ 1.6	
Wholesale Trade -- Commerce de gros -				
Maritimes .....	+ 5.3	+ 2.7	+ 5.1	
Quebec .....	+ 2.7	+ 6.0	+ 5.1	
Ontario .....	+ 1.7	+ 1.6	+ 0.5	
Prairies .....	+ 0.1	+ 6.4	+ 4.4	
British Columbia .....	+ 17.4	+ 9.4	+ 15.1	
CANADA .....	+ 3.7	+ 4.9	+ 4.5	+ 4.7

(1) Revised -- Révisé.  
(2) Preliminary -- Préliminaire.



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